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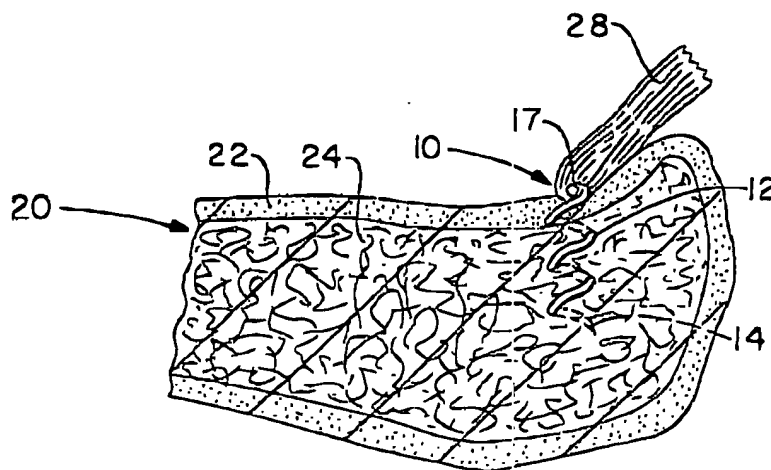
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(54) Title: OPEN HELICAL ORGANIC TISSUE ANCHOR AND METHOD OF FACILITATING HEALING



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a tissue anchor (10) which is an open helix (12) of biocompatible material having a slope of from 0.5 turns per centimeter to 10 turns per centimeter, a length from 3 mm to 75 mm, a diameter of from 1.5 mm to 11 mm, and an aspect ratio of from about 3 to about 5 to 1. The anchor can have a head (17) which is capable of securing or clamping tissue together, such as holding a suture in hole (19) to secure a ligament or tendon (28) to bone. The anchor can also have a head which causes an inward, compressive loading for use in fastening bone to bone, orthopedic plates to bone, or cartilage to bone.